



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #9

In order to develop programming and new amenity recommendations, TEN x TEN developed the following goals based on the guiding principles. The recommendations that have been put forward reflect these goals.

Protect

- All new amenities shall not negatively impact water quality. Strategies to accomplish this include:
 1. Consolidate (or replace) new amenities and/or structures with existing amenities to minimize impacts
 2. Limit new amenities and/or structures
 3. Locate new amenities and/or structure sensitively
- Define natural areas to reduce erosion and overuse

Invite

- Improve and provide amenities that create an inclusive welcome to the parks (recreational opportunities, universal access, restrooms, nature immersion, education and stewardship, points of entry)
- Provide amenities that expand the diversity of people visiting these parks
- Strengthen year-round programming and amenities

Connect

- New programs, amenities and/or structures should connect visitors with the unique qualities and identities of each lake
- Provide safety improvements at entry points and activity nodes

Tell Stories

- Use programming and interpretation to celebrate the history of the Park
- Protect important “moments”, areas of historic significance, or unique experiences

Celebrate

- Honor the ways that people enjoy using the parks and lakes by improving their experience (culture, events, education, stewardship)
- Formalize gathering spaces and flexible program areas to provide opportunities for expanded restoration

Respect

- Balance restoration and historic landscapes
- Group amenities in areas where there’s existing use and to minimize impact

FAQs on Programs and Amenities/Structures within the Initial Park Concepts

Question 1: Why did you propose to move the skating rink/warming house to the northwest quadrant of Lake of the Isles in Concept B?

- a) To offer a location that has more land area available with less trail conflicts.
- b) This location is the closest entry point to Lake of the Isles from the light rail station and would provide a welcoming entry point to Lake of the Isles.

Question 2: Why was a permanent year-round building proposed where there is currently a temporary warming house on Lake of the Isles?

- a) Creates opportunities for year-round programming
- b) Year-round restroom
- c) Permanent storage
- d) Creates an opportunity for a sense of formal welcome and a place to get information about the park
- e) Reduces setup and take down time associated with temporary warming house

Question 3: What are the benefits of a permanent restroom on Lake of the Isles?

- a) Having well-maintained restrooms available along trails makes a difference for pregnant women, families with little kids, and many older adults.
- b) Currently, Lake of the Isles has 1 seasonal winter port-a-potty at the warming house and 1 year-round port-a-potty at the Midtown Greenway. LOI is 2.63 miles around and compared with bathroom options around other lakes and parks in the MPRB system, Lake of the Isles is underserved in frequency of restrooms.

Question 4: What are Activity Hubs, why were they proposed, and where are they located in each concept?

- a) "Activity hubs" is a name we gave "clusters" of small-scale amenities. All activity hubs were proposed at existing amenity locations to consolidate, reduce impacts and celebrate what is currently working well.
- b) Activity Hubs were proposed to support a broader audience of visitors to be able to enjoy the park system. "Activity hubs" are locations where new amenities were grouped with existing amenities to consolidate activities.
- c) Concept A has three proposed "Activity Hubs", one at Cedar and two at Isles
 - i. Cedar Lake (#1 East Cedar Beach): restroom, mobile outdoor classroom, canoe rental kiosk
 - ii. Lake of Isles (#4 northern arm): outdoor classroom, lake deck
 - iii. Lake of Isles (#6 on east side of lake): year-round building/warming house, restroom, picnic pavilion
- d) Concept B has two proposed "Activity Hubs", one at Cedar and one at Isles
 - i. Cedar Lake (#1 East Cedar Beach): restroom, outdoor classroom, canoe rental kiosk

- ii. Lake of Isles (#2 northwest area): year-round building/warming house, restroom, picnic pavilion

Question 5: Why are boardwalks being proposed?

- a) Boardwalks with interpretation can help educate the public concerning wetland beauty and functions and help build support for protection and restoration of wetlands and their role in water quality treatment.
- b) Boardwalks facilitate bird watching and ecotourism from a safe distance.
- c) Boardwalks can be used as a management strategy to protect the littoral edge restoration from negative human impacts.
- d) In Concept A, two sections of boardwalks were proposed on Lake of the Isles:
 - i. Northwestern area, near existing dock and canoe racks
 - ii. Northern arm of Isles, both segments replace the pedestrian trail in each location to allow for an expanded littoral edge that increases biodiversity and habitat for wildlife and provides water quality improvements.
- e) In Concept B, two sections of boardwalk were proposed on Cedar Lake.
 - i. Northwest edge: Proposed to alleviate the narrow trail conditions in that location that does not provide adequate space for bikes and pedestrians.
 - ii. Southeast edge: Proposed as a way to provide formal access where it doesn't currently exist while also expanding the littoral edge

Question 6: How could the plan address flooding of the existing pedestrian trail around Lake of the Isles, if not through a boardwalk?

- a) Raise the trail
- b) Move the pedestrian trail further away from the lake